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Ex-CIA Agent: News Media Caused Assassinations

By PEGGY FISH
Record Lifestyle Editor

A former CIA executive said Tuesday in Hickory that newspaper columnist Jack Anderson and the news media have been responsible for several CIA agents' assassinations.

"There are three dozen laws providing serious criminal punishment for disclosure of government information. There is a 5-year sentence for revealing personal internal revenue information, or welfare recipient data — or next year's estimate of



MAURY

America's soy bean crop," John M. Maury told members of the Catawba Valley Executives Club meeting at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

"Yet it's all right to publish the names of secret agents, which in some cases have led to assassinations and in others ruined careers, and the only protection is Title 18 which says you've got to prove it's done to aid a foreign power or to damage American security," he explained.

He added that today he will testify in Washington before the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee urging a bill that would outlaw exposing the identities of undercover U.S. intelligence agents.

Maury, a law graduate of the University of Virginia, served six years in the Marine Corps and during World War II was stationed in Russia, and 28 years with the Central Intelligence Agency. Following his retirement six years ago he has been a consultant on national security matters to the Pentagon.

During his speech and following question and answer session, Maury reviewed American foreign relations since World War II, and the CIA involvement — or non-involvement, in some cases, in spite of myths to the contrary.

He marked the difference between

President Kennedy's strong reaction to Russian missiles in Cuba in 1962, and President Carter's three-week reversal reaction to troops sent to Fidel Castro's Caribbean nation.

He reported that the need for good secret intelligence led to the CIA handling the U-2 spy planes.

"If the Air Force had handled it it was estimated it would take six years and congressional funding, with a resulting lack of secrecy, and cost about \$2 million. We had it in nine months — for less than a million.

"The '80s will be the most demanding and trying period in a lifetime — because the communists are on the march," he said, as he reviewed troubled situations around the world, from Africa through the Middle East to the Orient and Latin America.

"It's not the ideology of communism that's attractive to countries, it's their military hardware — why, in one year the Russians exported more military hardware that we provided all our armed

services!" he emphasized.

He cited the 1962 missile crisis as the change in focus for the Soviet Union and the beginning of the Soviet drive for supremacy. For emphasis Maury said that during World War II Germany wreaked havoc with Allied shipping around the world with about 35 operational submarines. Yet Russia, a land power not dependent on the seas for supply lines, now has 10 times that number; "so their submarine capacity is obviously to strangle the United States."

"I don't think they plan to start World War III," the intelligence agent said. "I think they hope to achieve their aims with the military threat — blackmail.

"But we face the prospect that any day technological breakthroughs can upset the present balance in the world."

He sought to dispel some of the misunderstandings and myths about the CIA and its activities.

"The CIA was not involved with Watergate — it was some of its former employees who were hired by others for that operation.

"As far as spying on Americans — there were only three cases in which the CIA was involved by direct order of the president ... the CIA, during a period of three weeks, reported on some hardcore terrorist groups, such as the Weathermen, and observed them for sources of foreign support."

He explained recent problems of the CIA during attacks on the home front.

"I understand the natural suspicion of any agency that works in secret. But we depend on intelligence to provide the eyes and ears in this dangerous world.

"In the early days we could get cooperation from neutral foreign governments because we had a reputation for keeping a secret. They will not cooperate now.

"In the early days we could get cooperation from little people — usually natives. Now, when they publish the names of agents, hostile powers trace back and identify former associates and contacts.

"Our intelligence agencies have suffered severely. In spite of advanced tracking equipment we've got to have human sources of information — must have pre-

cise knowledge of where and what the threat is, for the Soviets are past masters at obfuscation and deception.

"And there will be big changes in the next few years, because we'll have a new Soviet generation with different perceptions. The present leaders remember our success with the Berlin Air Lift, the Korean War. The new ones will remember our failures," he said.

The next meeting of the club will be in the fall, with Peter Lind Hayes as guest speaker.

New officers are Graham DeVane, president; Alex Shuford II, first vice president; Mrs. George H. Moretz, second vice president; Robert H. Triplett, managing director; Brenda Beam, secretary-treasurer.

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